

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

The decoder 18 further comprises a current drawing circuit 39 that is connected to the pair of wires 16 and to the microprocessor 40. The current drawing circuit 39 operates under instruction from the microprocessor 40 to draw a predetermined amount of current from the alternating power signal. In the embodiment, the current drawing circuit 39 is arranged to draw 100 millamps of current. This allows the decoder 18 to communicate with the controller 12 as will be described in further detail below.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

The first type of stream, referred to as a command stream, comprises a sync pulse, followed by an instruction byte, followed by eight activation pulses, one for each of the remote stations 14a – 14h. In other embodiments, the number of activation pulses following the instruction byte would be varied according to the number of remote stations, or alternatively a fixed number greater than the number of remote stations may be used, such as 100.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

In the command stream shown in figure 4b, the instruction byte determines the nature of the instruction given to the remote stations, and the activation pulses indicate which of the remote stations 14a – 14h are to follow the instruction. Each of the activation pulses is either a zero or a one pulse, each of which addresses one ~~are~~ particular remote station 14a – 14h according to an addressing technique that will be described below.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

The second stream that the controller 12 can produce is shown in figure 4c, which is referred to as an idle stream. The idle stream comprises a synchronisation pulse followed by a series of eight idle pulses. In a similar manner to the activation pulses described in relation to figure 4b, the number of idle pulses may be set according to the number of remote stations, or a fixed number greater than the number of remote stations may be used, such as 100.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

A decoder sinks ~~sink~~ current during an idle pulse corresponding to its address in an idle stream, as described above. In the second embodiment, the decoders are also arranged to sink current during the activation pulse corresponding to its address in a command stream.